

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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EDITOR

Activities in Food and Drug Law Enforcement

Mineral Waters Examined

A survey of mineral waters was made in southern California during July. It was found that many of the smaller bottling plants are equipped inadequately to wash bottles properly and handle water for bottling in a sanitary manner. It was found that exaggerated claims are made on the labels of the water bottles, leading purchasers to believe that they possess some miraculous quality. Furthermore, it has been found that many labels carry incorrect analyses. Iodine content is often stated in excess of the actual content.

Extracts and Flavors

A survey is being made of plants where flavors and extracts are manufactured. These products are used in large quantities in ice cream, fountain drinks, bottled drinks, etc. The object of the survey is to determine whether these products are pure or whether they are coal tar products.

Beverages

The legalization of 4 per cent beverages has brought about some cases of misbranding. It has been determined that some beer which is labeled 3.2 per cent by weight alcohol really has an alcoholic content of 1 per cent. Small quantities of sour and unpalatable beer have been found, the original source of which it is impossible to locate. Interstate shipments of such beer have been turned over to the Internal Revenue Department for investigation. Legitimate brewers

make every effort to manufacture and label their products correctly.

Mayonnaise

A survey of mayonnaise manufacturers is under way in both northern and southern California. Gross violations of the Pure Drug Law have been found. Many products are adulterated in that essential ingredients are omitted. Artificial color is added to simulate pure mayonnaise. Gums are added and spoiled eggs, in some cases, are employed. In some plants the bottles used as containers were not properly sterilized. The use of second-hand bottles taken from dumps and not sterilized constitutes another violation of the laws of sanitation. Mayonnaise manufacturers as a whole are providing every cooperation in improving conditions within the industry.

Dried Vegetables

Sanitary conditions were investigated in a plant which specializes in dehydrating onions. It was found that the product is not clean before dehydrating and decayed onions were allowed to go through the process. All objectionable conditions were corrected.

Apple Pomace

The work of surveying all plants using apple pomace was continued during July. The arsenic content has been excessive in practically all the material

sampled, in some cases running $4\frac{1}{2}$ times the permissible amount.

Egg Standardization

Fines paid for the violation of the Egg Standardization Law totaled \$340 during July. The summer heat necessitates more care on the part of egg dealers as eggs will deteriorate rapidly to a lower grade. Large cut-rate markets constitute the worst problem. The responsibility rests upon the wholesale egg dealer who takes a chance, due to the large volume of sale. By continually checking these markets and prosecuting violators, the quality of eggs in such places is being raised.

Summary

A total of 576 inspections was made by the bureau during July. A total of 210 official samples and 143 unofficial samples was taken.

FOOD POISONING CASES REPORTED

Four outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during July. One involved chocolate eclairs and another was due to custard-filled cake. Staphylococcus infection was responsible for both of these outbreaks. In both of them the product had been shipped to another town from the locality where it was manufactured.

Eighteen cases of food poisoning occurred in a camp of young women. None of the food eaten was available for laboratory study and the exact cause could not be determined.

The fourth outbreak involved nine cases in a labor camp. Because of a shortage of ice in extremely hot weather, foodstuffs were not cared for properly. The suspected food products were not available for laboratory study and the exact cause could not be determined.

WATER AND SEWER PROJECT SPEEDED FOR N. R. A.

To expedite State approval of water and sewer projects, which is one of the conditions for Federal aid under N. R. A., the State Board of Public Health has changed its rules, which provide a thirty-day recess before permits are granted so that protestants may be heard.

Hereafter, permits will be granted upon presentation of projects that are acceptable to the Board, the permit to be effective on a date to be fixed in each case, provided protests are not made by the date set.

The Board expects that the change in the procedure will be an incentive for advancing projects that are to improve sanitation and that it will assist the government in its unemployment relief program.

HOW MANY PEOPLE?

The 1930 U. S. Census gave the population of California as 5,732,138. Using the standard methods of estimating populations, it is assumed that the mid-year population of the State for 1933 is 6,390,788. Estimates of population at the present time have been subjected to considerable criticism in many parts of the United States. This pertains, particularly, to estimates of population for the larger cities, whence large numbers of individuals have migrated to rural districts. It is doubtful that this estimate for the population of California is far from correct. To be sure, there are many factors that influence population making it impossible to make a definitely correct estimate. It is believed however that the population of this State at the present time is at least 6,300,000.

Conditions pertaining to migration to California have not been disturbed greatly during the past few years. The economic status of individuals traveling to California may have changed but it is doubtful that the numbers of individuals who have journeyed to this State from other States have changed materially. To be sure many thousands of Mexicans have left California for their native land during the past few years. The numbers of people involved in this exodus, however, are more than offset by arrivals from other States and other countries. The Civilian Conservation Corps camps, alone, have brought 80,000 men to California during the past few weeks.

The birth rate is slightly lower. The first three months of the present year showed a loss of 3 per cent in the number of births that occurred, as compared with the first three months of 1932. Last year there were but 109 more deaths in the State than occurred in the preceding year, and births in 1932 were 3445 fewer than in 1931.

It is recognized that accurate population estimates are difficult to make under present conditions, but with due consideration to all of the factors involved it is believed that the estimate quoted is fairly reliable and indicates approximately the number of individuals who are living at the present time in California.

MONO COUNTY HAS NEW HEALTH OFFICER

Dr. Gilbert H. Johnson of Bridgeport has been appointed health officer of Mono County. He succeeds Dr. G. A. Kelly of Bridgeport.

Mr. A. L. McCallum has succeeded Mr. M. S. Scott as city health officer of Point Arena.

Mr. John Hamlin has been appointed city health officer of El Cajon to succeed Mr. Charles F. Richardson.

OAKLAND ACHIEVES RECORDS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

A statistical comparison of death rates for diphtheria, typhoid, and tuberculosis, as well as infant and maternal mortality, has been made for five cities in the United States, the population of each of which is about 300,000. These cities include Oakland, California; Houston, Texas; Columbus, Ohio; Toledo, Ohio; and Denver, Colorado. It is interesting to note that Oakland has the lowest rates for infant mortality, maternal mortality, tuberculosis and typhoid fever of any cities in this group. It has next to the lowest rate for diphtheria mortality, the rate for Toledo, Ohio, being slightly lower. Under the administration of Dr. A. H. Hieronymus, city health officer, these enviable records have been achieved.

An explanation of the tuberculosis death rate should be added. The accompanying tabulation gives the Oakland tuberculosis death rate as 40.14 per 100,000 population. This rate is computed upon 120 tuberculosis deaths that actually occurred in Oakland last year. As a matter of fact, however, 91 residents of Oakland died outside of the city and the actual tuberculosis death rate was therefore 71.0 per 100,000 population. Similar adjustments in the tuberculosis death rates of other cities in this group would unquestionably bring similar increases. At all events, it is certain that the Oakland tuberculosis death rate was lower last year than that for any city included in the group.

1932 Estimated

	Population	Deaths	General death rate	Infant mortality
Oakland	298,926	3128	10.46	39.66
Houston, Texas	310,000	3572	11.52	62.01
Columbus, Ohio	302,314	4095	13.55	58.72
Toledo, Ohio	291,600	3444	11.81	60.56
Denver, Colorado	294,115	4326	14.71	68.87

Tuberculosis Death Rates 1932

Oakland	40.14
Houston	77.74
Columbus	73.84
Toledo	72.02
Denver	101.32

Maternal Death Rates 1932

Oakland	4.51
Houston	6.95
Columbus	10.38
Toledo	6.70
Denver	6.26

Diphtheria Death Rates 1932

Oakland	2.34
Houston	5.48
Columbus	3.64
Toledo	1.71
Denver	5.44

Typhoid Death Rates 1932

Oakland	0.66
Houston	3.87
Columbus	1.65
Toledo	0.69
Denver	0.68

PERMITS TO OPERATE CLINICS REQUIRED UNDER NEW LAW

Under the new law for the regulation of clinics, Chapter 756, it will be necessary for all persons, firms, associations or corporations, other than the Federal government, to secure permits from the State Board of Public Health in order to maintain, conduct and operate clinics and dispensaries. There are five different classifications of clinics under this law:

- charitable clinic and dispensary,
- teaching and research clinic and dispensary,
- private pay clinic and dispensary,
- governmental clinic and dispensary.

There are certain exemptions and prohibitions under the law and in order to determine the status of each clinic it is essential that application be made for forms upon which to apply for permits. Health officers are requested to write to the State Board of Public Health at 312 State Building, San Francisco, for these application blanks to be used for any clinics which they may conduct. It is essential that application be made as soon as possible in order that the status of each clinic may be determined definitely.

LEPROSY IS REPORTED

Two cases of leprosy and one suspected case of the disease were investigated during July. One of these patients will be removed to the Federal Leprosarium. The suspected case is being held for establishment of diagnosis and the third case is so far advanced that removal to the Federal Leprosarium is inadvisable.

POST-GRADUATE COURSE AT NASHVILLE

Dr. W. S. Leathers, head of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine at Nashville, Tennessee, announces the regular post-graduate course in public health which begins September 27. This course consists of six weeks of intramural instruction and six weeks of field work in well organized county health departments in the immediate vicinity of Nashville. The course is given in cooperation with the Tennessee State Department of Health. Individuals who may desire to register for the work should communicate with Dr. Leathers at Nashville.

The layman can gain a fair idea of the manner in which tuberculosis affects the tissues by noting the mould seen in bread and cheese.—F. M. Pottenger.

MILK INSPECTORS TO MEET WITH HEALTH OFFICERS

M. A. Heinzman, secretary-treasurer of the California Association of Dairy and Milk Inspectors, announces that on Tuesday, September 19, at Santa Cruz, a joint luncheon and meeting will be held by the Health Officers' Section of the League of California Municipalities with the California Association of Dairy and Milk Inspectors. Dr. C. U. Duckworth, Assistant Director of the State Department of Agriculture, will discuss the new regulations proposed for improving the market milk supply of this State. All health officers are urged to attend this meeting and bring their milk inspectors.

COUNTY TAKES OVER SANTA PAULA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The city of Santa Paula has transferred the administration of its health department to the Ventura County Health Department. Dr. C. I. Illick has served as City Health Officer of Santa Paula.

MUSSEL POISONING OCCURS

Seven cases of mussel poisoning occurred on July 8th in Redwood City among persons who had eaten mussels gathered at Half Moon Bay. Fewer cases of mussel poisoning have been reported this summer due, in all probability, to the widespread publicity that has been given to the danger of eating mussels at this season of the year.

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria

39 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 7, Alhambra 1, El Monte 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 21, San Gabriel 1, Riverside 1, San Francisco 2, Santa Clara County 3.

Chickenpox

46 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: San Francisco 14.

Measles

43 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 11, San Diego 19.

Scarlet Fever

54 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles 15.

Whooping Cough

193 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Alameda County 10, Oakland 29, Los Angeles County 20, Los Angeles 48, San Francisco 13, Stockton 12.

Smallpox

3 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 1.

Typhoid Fever

8 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles 1, La Habra 1, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic meningitis from Oakland has been reported.

Poliomyelitis

2 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Kern County 1, Newport Beach 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic encephalitis from Los Angeles County has been reported.

Food Poisoning

2 cases of food poisoning from Madera have been reported.

Undulant Fever

2 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 1.

Tularemia

One case of tularemia from Huntington Park has been reported.

Coccidioidal Granuloma

One case of coccidioidal granuloma from Los Angeles County has been reported.

*From reports received on September 5th for week ending September 2nd.